

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01583 051052Z

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 INR-11 SP-03 PM-07 DRC-01

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R 050812Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1157

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 1583

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, EG, SY

SUBJ: CARRIER TASK FORCE OPERATIONS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

REF: STATE 167233

1. AT THIS STAGE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, I BELIEVE IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND TRUST INITIATED AND ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY. THUS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO SHARE WITH THE SYRIANS INFORMATION, OPINIONS, IDEAS AND FUTURE PLANNING. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE SYRIAN REGIME APPRECIATES BEING TAKEN INTO OUR CONFIDENCE AND THAT THIS KIND OF GESTURE EVOKES A SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE FROM THEM. THEREFORE, WITH REGARD TO RESCINDING INSTRUCTIONS ON AIRCRAFT CARRIER OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN I RECOMMEND THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE FOR ME TO INFORM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SIMPLY THAT U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WILL NOW BE OPERATING IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AS OTHER U.S. NAVAL VESSELS ARE PRESENTLY AND ROUTINELY DOING. I DO NOT THINK I SHOULD REFER TO THE SYRIAN OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENT DECLARING THIS AREA OFF LIMITS BUT SIMPLY PROCEED ON THE BASIS THAT I AM SHARING INFORMATION WITH THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IN VIEW OF
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THE SYRIAN GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY TO THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

AS WELL AS OF OUR PRESENT CLOSE RELATIONS.

2. I REGRET THAT I AM UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THE PRE-OCTOBER
GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT ROUTINE OPERATIONS
IN THE AREA INASMUCH AS I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THESE GUIDELINES
ARE.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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